

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Create a time line from 1890 to 1911. On one side, write in the main events in Dwight Eisenhower's boyhood. On the other side write in major historical events of your state, the United States, or the world.
2. Dwight D. Eisenhower was often praised for his fine character. Identify examples of core character traits demonstrated by Dwight D. Eisenhower from "Dreams of a Barefoot Boy."
3. Investigate the history of your own community about 1900. How does it compare to Abilene, Kansas, at that time? Make a comparative table that contrasts at least four different ideas.
4. Choose one of the five themes from "Dreams of a Barefoot Boy." For example, you might choose "School & Education." Compare school in 1900 with school today.
5. Interview a person who grew up in a generation before you. Use one or more of the five themes of "Dreams of a Barefoot Boy" as a guide to writing your interview questions.
6. Learn more about and practice Spencerian script. Online bookstores have a number of instructional books. Also, try this web site: www.spencerian.com.
7. Locate a copy of the poem, "The Barefoot Boy." Eisenhower referred to himself as a "barefoot boy." After reading the poem, explain why this expression appealed to him. (Rudyard Kipling's "If" was also a favorite poem of Dwight D. Eisenhower.)
8. List geographic locations mentioned in *At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends*. On outline maps of the United States and/or Kansas, locate and label these places.
9. Research and sing some of the popular songs of 1900. Visit this web site to begin: <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/sheetmusic/timeline.html>.
10. Find out more about the history of Kansas at this site: <http://www.cc.ukans.edu/carrie/kancoll/>.
11. Tour a historic home in your community that dates back to about 1900. Compare what you see with what you've learned about homes of this era. Investigate vintage clothing and microfilmed newspapers of this period in history.
12. Locate common household tools from 1900. Flea markets, estate sales, garage sales, and attics or basements are good places to begin. For each, record the name, date, and its purpose, and find out how it worked.
13. As you work on "Dreams of a Barefoot Boy," make a list of the features (streets, homes and buildings, railroad tracks, bridges, creeks, etc.) of Abilene. Use the 1901 map of Abilene to identify and label as many features as you can.
14. From the descriptions in a number of primary sources from this unit, make a diagram of the Eisenhower home. Make one of your own home. Compare the two diagrams.
15. Write a letter to young Dwight Eisenhower explaining a technology you use today. Explain how it works, and tell why it is an important part of your life in 1999. It's 1900 so use words he'll understand.
16. Research American architectural design about 1900. In your own community, take photographs of historic buildings that are examples of what you've learned. Create an exhibit, slide show, PowerPoint presentation, or a walking tour to display what you have learned.